

CBS EVENING NEWS
18 October 1984

>RATHER: Good evening. This is the CBS Evening News, Dan <
>REAGAN>Rather reporting. Re-elect Reagan headquarters today
mounted two separate damage control operations to distance
their candidate from two potential embarrassments. One:
a CIA manual that seems to be a how-to book given to
U.S.-financed rebels in Nicaragua for political
assassinations. Two: a White House economist who today
called the comparable worth pay system for men and women
that is on the law books in 15 states, quote, 'a truly
crazy proposal.' White House correspondent Bill Plante
reports.

PLANTE: White House officials set out today to control
the political damage done by a CIA manual which endorses
political assassination, only to be torpedoed with another
embarrassment, this one on a women's issue. First,
President Reagan called for an investigation of the CIA
training manual, which was intended for U.S.-backed contra
forces fighting the Nicaraguan government.

VOICE OF UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER: Is the CIA out of
control in Central America, sir? PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN:
Not at all. And, and my own investigation as well the CIA
investigation is going forward.

PLANTE: Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes claimed the
'administration has not advocated or condoned political
assassination.' Administration officials later backed
further away, saying the manual was never approved by the
CIA and that it was the work of a low-level contract
employee, who drafted it on a free-lance basis. Officials
said today the offending material was deleted from a later
draft of the manual. But a source told CBS News the
reference to assassination was left in. An outraged
Speaker O'Neill demanded the resignation of CIA Director
William Casey. REP. THOMAS P. O'NEILL (speaker of the
House): I want him to get outta there. That's, that's
what I want him to do. I think it's a disgraceful
situation.